

Van: Human Rights Watch <news@hrw.org>
Verzonden: vrijdag 31 januari 2014 1:15
Aan: Nieuwsarchief
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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

January 30, 2014

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In Syria, Thousands of Homes Destroyed



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Satellite imagery, witness statements, and video and photographic evidence show that Syrian authorities deliberately and unlawfully demolished thousands of residential buildings in Damascus and Hama using explosives and bulldozers.

Thousands of families have lost their homes as a result of these demolitions.

Wiping entire neighborhoods off the map is not a legitimate tactic of war. These unlawful demolitions are the latest additions to a long list of crimes committed by the Syrian government against civilians.

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[Dispatches: Central African Republic – “We will take our revenge”](#)

By Peter Bouckaert

Fatimatu Yamsa knew that her desperate attempt to flee the slaughter all around her had failed as soon as she saw the Christian anti-balaka militia at a roadblock. Fatimatu was on a truck in Boyali, about 100 kilometers northwest of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic. Knowing she was about to die, Fatimatu pleaded with the Christian woman next to her to take her seven-month-old baby and pretend it was the woman's own.

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[Ecuador Should Ensure Judicial Independence](#)

Since 2011, a judicial council made up almost entirely of former members of the administration of President Rafael Correa has appointed and removed hundreds of judges through highly questionable methods.

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[Thailand Should Stop Spiral of Political Violence](#)

Protest leaders in Thailand should immediately end their campaign to obstruct voting in the country's national elections on Sunday. The Thai authorities should permit peaceful protest but also ensure security forces do not commit abuses. The leaders of all political groups should act to prevent escalating violence by their supporters.

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[In Kyrgyzstan, Police Abuse, Extortion of Gay Men](#)

Gay and bisexual men in Kyrgyzstan already live in fear due to widespread homophobic attitudes, and the police are making a nightmarish situation even worse. Kyrgyzstan authorities at the very top levels need to call a halt to this police abuse and make sure that gay and bisexual men have the protection they need.

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